United Nations A/72/267

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 August 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025)

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/293.

* A/72/150.

17-13166 (E) 100817

Please recycle

Summary

In the present report, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/293, the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) outlines the progress made in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025). The report highlights the efforts made in the inception period, including the development of a programme framework, the design of consultative and decision-making mechanisms to include stakeholders and the establishment of reporting structures. The report also provides examples of activities that have been implemented to date by UNIDO, participating United Nations entities and other stakeholders.

I. Background

1. Inclusive and sustainable industrialization is critical to eradicate absolute poverty and create shared prosperity. The urgency of achieving industrial development in Africa is underlined by the environmental, social and economic challenges and opportunities faced by the continent, including the impact of climate change on rural communities, the risks relating to natural resource-based economies, the implications of growing urbanization, the current and projected growth of the young population, the entrepreneurial potential of African youth and women, migratory pressures and the renewed interest of foreign and domestic and public and private investors in the continent. It is clear that Africa must industrialize and that it must do so in a way that is socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

2. The promotion of industrialization has been high on the agenda of Governments in Africa for decades. Regional institutions have also prioritized industrialization in their development planning strategies, as reflected, for example, in Agenda 2063 of the African Union. In today's interconnected world, such issues concern not only Africa, but are global imperatives. The international community has recognized the aspirations of African countries and has expressed the need for industrial development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and several initiatives at the bilateral and multilateral levels, including the Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and Least Developed Countries of the Group of 20.

3. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/293 on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025) is thus timely and important. The successful implementation of the resolution is of paramount importance if sustainable development and peace and security in Africa and around the world are to be achieved. In the resolution, the Assembly clearly states what is needed for Africa to industrialize:

(a) It encourages the international community to take action and use industrialization as a vehicle for meeting the targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) It calls upon UNIDO to develop, operationalize and lead the implementation of the programme for the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa and invites UNIDO to foster partnerships and coordinate with other relevant United Nations entities and to build joint initiatives in favour of industrialization;

(c) It calls for stronger public-private partnerships with multiple stakeholders and enhanced international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to expedite the industrialization of Africa.

4. As the specialized agency of the United Nations with the mandate to support Member States in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO recognizes the need and the urgency to accelerate an industrialization process in Africa that addresses all three dimensions of sustainable development. This mandate is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. Yet, the common goals formulated in the Third Decade cannot be achieved by one organization or Government alone. Successful industrial development in Africa requires effective partnerships and concerted efforts by Governments, investors, United Nations entities, civil society and other stakeholders. It is against this backdrop that the programme framework for the Third Decade was developed,

mindful of the complex, but necessary, coordination efforts that are prerequisites for achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa.

II. Programme framework for the implementation of the Third Industrial Decade for Africa (2016-2025)

6. In resolution 70/293, the General Assembly calls for a coordinated, large-scale and action-oriented programme. Building on the experience of the previous two industrial development decades in the region, UNIDO initiated the establishment of a collaborative platform with national Governments, United Nations entities, national and regional institutions, international financial institutions and the private sector in order to design and implement the required framework fostering investment and technical expertise in Africa.

7. A draft programme framework for the implementation of the Third Decade will be presented to the United Nations system and stakeholders at the forthcoming joint high-level side event on the theme "Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025): From political commitments to actions on the ground", to be held on 21 September 2017 in New York on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

8. Underpinning the draft programme framework, a governance structure has been defined within UNIDO to ensure efficiency, impact and accountability in the implementation of the Third Decade. Two internal bodies were established for that purpose. Headed by the Director General of UNIDO, the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025) Steering Committee provides strategic leadership pertaining to the development, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the programme framework. The committee is supported by a technical working group, whose tasks include resource mobilization, stakeholder engagement and the operationalization of the framework.

9. The draft programme framework is based on the vision contained in General Assembly resolution 70/293 of collectively advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa within the next decade and outlines the objectives and pillars for its implementation. These elements are summarized in the paragraphs below.

A. Vision of the programme framework

10. The vision for the implementation of the Third Decade is to firmly anchor Africa on a path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. This can be achieved only by fostering sustainable economic transformation in Africa through a broad-based and country-owned process that leverages financial and non-financial resources, promotes regional integration and mobilizes cooperation among Africa's development partners in support of industrialization.

11. The implementation of the Third Decade thus seeks to mobilize and channel support to African countries, to complement their efforts towards the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063, focusing on the first 10-year implementation plan, and the 2030 Agenda, focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 9 and its related targets. It will build partnerships based on inclusive and sustainable industrial development strategies that are aimed not only at creating prosperity, but also at ensuring that such development is shared by all, and that are environmentally sustainable. Hence, the implementation of the Third Decade is

aimed at contributing to the vision of eradicating poverty within the next generation overarching the 2030 Agenda.

12. The road towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development is long and steep. It is further complicated by the diversity of African countries and subregions in terms of, inter alia, their development stage and natural, financial and human capital endowment. However, the African continent presents several opportunities for an accelerated industrialization process. The successful implementation of the Third Decade will depend critically on the ability of Governments in the region, United Nations entities, other development cooperation actors, investors and other stakeholders to work together, exploit synergies and ensure coherence of efforts.

13. In resolution 70/293, the General Assembly thus calls upon UNIDO to foster partnerships with other agencies and partners in order to develop joint initiatives in favour of industrialization. The draft programme framework proposed by UNIDO responds to that call and is consistent with the ongoing system-wide discussions on United Nations reform and leadership. In particular, in discussing the leadership framework, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination highlighted the broad flexibility of each implementing agency in defining the best implementation road map at the entity level, with due regard to their own mandates, unique value offerings and specific needs (CEB/2017/1, para. 15). Such flexibility is foreseen in the proposed programme framework for the implementation of the Third Decade.

14. Lastly, the draft programme framework takes into due consideration the areas of intervention explicitly mentioned in paragraph 6 of the resolution, as set out below: Technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms

- Access to information and communications technology
- Productive diversification
- Agribusiness value chain development
- Trade
- Capacity-building
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Industrial policy
- Special economic zones and industrial parks
- Action on climate change and human capital development
- Strengthening public-private partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including those in the public and the private sectors, civil society organizations and academia.

B. The six pillars of the programme framework for the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2015)

15. Based on the above objectives, the implementation of the programme framework for the Third Decade is based on the six pillars set out below.

Pillar 1: Outreach and global forums

16. UNIDO and other stakeholders will convene and organize high-level events and other outreach activities to maintain and further increase the political momentum in support of the industrial development of Africa. Activities will

include dedicated sessions in meetings of intergovernmental organizations (for example, the United Nations, the African Union and African regional economic communities), expert group meetings and side events at major international meetings. The main thrust of the global forums will be to increase the visibility of the Third Decade and take stock of its implementation. The forums will also allow the creation of new partnerships and the building of synergies with key implementation partners and stakeholders and provide platforms to update the stakeholders on the progress of the Third Decade, with a view to nurturing cooperation in the implementation of its projects. Foreseen forums will include, but are not limited to, meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Industry and Minerals (former Conference of African Ministers of Industry), the Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference and Africa Industrialization Day.

Pillar 2: Strategic support towards the development and management of industrial policy instruments

17. In selected African countries, programmes and projects will contribute to the strengthening of governance, research and statistics in support of industrialization, as well as policy advice and institutional human capital development for the African Union Commission, regional economic communities and African States members of UNIDO. Key projects will include strengthening the capacity of African countries in industrial data collection, including statistics disaggregated by gender, and analysis to inform the implementation of the Third Decade; training and technical assistance for African countries for industrialization partnership agreements; support in the formulation, update, concretization and implementation of regional industrial policies of regional economic communities and subregional statistic hubs/ competence centres; and diagnostic, thematic and empirical studies to determine appropriate policies for the structural transformation of African economies.

Pillar 3: Technical cooperation

18. The key features of the technical assistance proposed will take into account the future outlook of manufacturing and industry and strategically focus on developing and implementing ongoing multidisciplinary and specific pipeline projects, as well as new initiatives in respective areas, including industrial parks and development of special economic zones; energy security and access for the promotion of competitiveness for Africa's industrialization, including trade facilitation and regional economic integration; agribusiness value chain development and upgrading; technology transfer; investment promotion and innovation; entrepreneurship and private sector expansion; and the economic empowerment of young people and women. Special emphasis will be placed on expanding the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership approach to other countries in Africa.

Pillar 4: Cooperation with the African Union and African regional economic communities

19. This pillar supports the continued implementation of the African Union action plan for the accelerated industrial development of Africa, which constitutes the ways and means to enhance and strengthen cooperation with the African Union and the regional economic communities. The Joint African Union Commission-UNIDO action plan for 2017-2019 will also be implemented as part of this pillar. Among other initiatives, this will include the mainstreaming of the Third Decade programme into the respective work programmes of the cited institutions. Ongoing and planned activities include the establishment and operationalization of the implementation coordination unit for the African Union action plan for the

accelerated industrial development of Africa; the organization of regional consultative forums for policy decisions on industrialization; the scaling up of strategic support (advisory and technical cooperation) for regional economic integration in line with industrial cross-cutting issues (for example, infrastructure, trade regimes, etc.); and capacity-building programmes for African Union Commission staff and regional economic communities in respective areas.

Pillar 5: Partnerships and resource mobilization

20. Mobilizing the financial and technical resources to support African countries in achieving higher levels of inclusive and sustainable industrial development is critical for the success of the Third Decade. In this context, the participation of multilateral and bilateral development cooperation actors, as well as Governments and public and private sector investors, is paramount. The convergence of official development aid flows and investments along a specific, country-owned industrial policy direction is critical to ensure effectiveness and large-scale development impact.

21. In this context, activities will promote partnerships that accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development in target countries in Africa. This will include scaling up and enforcing cooperation agreements with international financial institutions, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the Islamic Development Bank; organizing specific funds mobilization/investment conferences and donor round tables; collaborating mechanisms across United Nations entities on specific Third Decade projects, including the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); enhancing the development of public-private partnerships and other established partnership approaches; mobilizing financing from private sector partners (for example, multinational companies); leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation; strengthening cooperation within existing bilateral development cooperation frameworks (for example, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation; the Tokyo International Conference on African Development; the European Union; and Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS countries)); and leveraging resources from the Global Environment Facility.

Pillar 6: Communication and advocacy activities

22. Under this pillar, an outreach campaign is envisaged to promote and publicize the activities implemented within the Third Decade framework and, in particular, the key results and impact generated through those interventions. Activities to support the advocacy and communication matters of the Third Decade will include organizing targeted advocacy and communication around key global, regional and country-level events; developing and implementing country- and regional-level advocacy and communication activities; identifying eminent persons as ambassadors for the Third Decade; using various social media channels to publicize and disseminate information on Third Decade activities, including promotional videos and documentaries on the Decade on major media and various Africa media outlets; and disseminating publications and advocacy products.

III. Progress to date

23. The inception period of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025) included the formulation of the programme framework, the design of the governance structure within UNIDO and across a range of stakeholders and the beginning of the implementation of activities within the Third Decade programme framework. This section summarizes the progress made to date.

A. Governance: Partnerships and multi-stakeholder involvement

24. Cognizant of the pervasiveness of the challenges to the industrialization of Africa and the need for concerted global efforts, the General Assembly, in resolution 70/293, calls for active and broad-based participation of stakeholders in the design and implementation of programmes and projects. Coordination among the actors involved is a challenge, but essential for the successful implementation of the Third Decade. Cost-effective coordination mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure a high impact of joint activities, synergistic implementation, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, greater visibility and the promotion of investments and policies.

25. In line with the resolution, specific mechanisms will be designed to ensure the inclusion of stakeholders and partners in the Third Decade process. These stakeholders include the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), ECA, UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Health Organization, UNEP, UNDP, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

26. The implementation of the Third Decade will also advocate broad-based activities that embrace North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. It imperatively reaffirms that South-South cooperation is not a substitute, but a complement to, North-South cooperation. In addition, the Third Decade will involve cooperation with bilateral donors and partners, including UNIDO member States, African regional economic communities, international finance institutions and regional development banks, including the African Development Bank and the New Development Bank.

27. Two coordinating bodies will be created to facilitate the involvement of stakeholders in the Third Decade:

(a) The Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025) Implementing Partner Steering Committee will coordinate the work of key implementing partners, including the African Union Commission, NEPAD, ECA, the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the African regional economic communities, selected development finance institutions and other United Nations entities, including UNCTAD, ILO, UNEP, UNDP, WTO and the World Bank, to discuss joint programmes and projects, resource mobilization and other pertinent issues with respect to the implementation of the Third Decade;

(b) The Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025) High-level Advisory Panel will provide advice, strategic guidance and oversight in respect of the programme framework, as well as its joint collaboration for the implementation mechanisms. The members of this body will include representatives

from government, the private sector, civil society and academia. They will involve Governments of Africa, for example, through a representative group such as the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Industry and Minerals, regional development banks, private sector stakeholders and associations (particularly from Africa), civil society organizations and academia.

28. The process to establish the two bodies is currently ongoing. It involves discussions with implementing partners, both within and outside the United Nations system, UNIDO member States and other stakeholders. The purpose of the discussions is to identify possible areas of collaboration, agree on modalities for joint implementation, and reporting mechanisms. UNIDO will also hold a workshop to present the Third Decade programme framework to an expanded stakeholder group to facilitate broad-based consultations and to finalize it.

B. Reporting structure

29. In line with General Assembly resolution 70/293, UNIDO will assume the overall reporting function on the implementation of the Third Decade. UNIDO will therefore play a leading role in the monitoring and evaluation of activities and in the preparation of reports on programmes and projects undertaken by UNIDO and partners as part of the Decade. Inputs for the reports will be collected from implementing partners on a regular basis. The final reporting structure will be discussed and validated with all implementing partners.

C. Progress in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025) programme

30. While the inception phase of the Third Decade focused on activities relating to the governance and programme design, initial progress has also been made on implementation. A summary of activities to date within each pillar is set out below.

Pillar 1: Outreach and global forums

31. The development and implementation of the Third Decade were discussed at the following global forums and high-level events:

1. Special meetings of the Economic and Social Council on innovations in infrastructure development and promoting sustainable industrialization

32. Resilient infrastructure and sustainable industrialization help to achieve inclusion and equality within societies and can thereby contribute to poverty eradication. The President of the Economic and Social Council, with the support of UNIDO, organized two preparatory meetings and a special meeting on these topics in 2017.

2. Regional meeting on innovations for infrastructure development and promoting sustainable industrialization, Dakar, 26 to 28 March 2017

33. The meeting gathered high-level experts and policymakers and discussed key issues, challenges and opportunities, lessons, experiences and potential solutions on infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization for economic growth. UNIDO moderated a round-table discussion on policy perspectives on the infrastructure-industrialization nexus. The meeting provided the opportunity to explore existing initiatives on these topics and highlighted the role of the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 9.

There was agreement that there is a need to strengthen private sector involvement in the development process, foster new partnerships with development partners and develop national education and training systems as a means of addressing capacity gaps.

3. Global expert meeting on agriculture and agro-industries development towards sustainable and resilient food systems", Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 24 to 26 April 2017

34. The meeting discussed issues pertaining to agriculture, agro-industry and the changing food systems. It focused on how to overcome policy, capacity and financing gaps in those areas and presented agribusiness approaches that support food security, job creation and value addition. For example, the African Agribusiness and Agro-industry Development Initiative of UNIDO and FAO, among others, was presented as a key mechanism to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 2 and 9. It was proposed to expand the content and regional scope of the Initiative to address a range of global and national development challenges, create funding mechanisms and enable partnerships, including between the public and private sectors. Furthermore, important lessons were drawn from the work of UNIDO on agro-industrial parks as part of Ethiopia's Programme for Country Partnership. These included the need for investment in food industrial parks that are close to primary production areas to shorten the supply chains, add value and reduce post-harvest losses. Agro-industrial parks will contribute to food security and safety, as well as increase job opportunities, especially for young people, women and the rural communities.

4. Special meeting of the Economic and Social Council on innovations for infrastructure development and promoting sustainable industrialization, New York, 31 May 2017

35. The special meeting brought forward challenges and opportunities associated with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 9. It recognized the need to strengthen and scale up existing partnerships, build capacities and mobilize resources, as well as to maximize the positive impact of Goal 9 on poverty eradication and sustainable development. International partnerships and development cooperation that increase access to finance and strengthen risk mitigation measures and expertise were identified as effective solutions for overcoming challenges. The meeting highlighted that the Economic and Social Council would support the scale-up and expansion of the Programme for Country Partnership and the African Agribusiness and Agro-industry Development Initiative, including through its role as the principal United Nations organ for policy coordination, integration and review of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Conference dialogue on the theme "Blue growth and economy: Sharing perspectives and experiences for Africa", Cabo Verde, 3 to 5 May 2017

36. The conference provided a platform for sharing knowledge on blue growth and economy concepts and domains such as fisheries and aquaculture value chain development, integrated coastal zone management, socioeconomic and ecological systems resilience, carbon sequestration and ecosystems services, clean energy, tourism, transport and knowledge generation for sustainable development. UNIDO held four presentations, including on blue growth and the blue economy; the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14; adapting markets and value chains to blue growth and the blue economy using the example of the fishery value chain; and the involvement and incentives of the private sector in the blue economy. UNIDO also shared technical reports and success stories on technical assistance projects. It is planned that UNIDO will cooperate with the African Development

Bank on its blue economy flagship programme under the Bank's "Feed Africa: Strategy for agricultural transformation in Africa, 2016-2025".

6. Side event on industrialization and investments in Africa, thirty-third session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States–European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Malta, 19 June 2017

37. A side event on African industrialization was held at the thirty-third session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States–European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly. The event took place in cooperation with Global Africa, African Diaspora Network-Europe and UNIDO, the support of the Maltese presidency of the Council of the European Union and the sponsorship of the Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany. The aim of the event was to discuss the priority of investing in the industrialization process of developing countries, particularly in Africa. The side event created an opportunity to discuss avenues to mutualize industrialization efforts of various partners by promoting sustainable investments, increasing local processing of natural resources, improving the skills of young people and women and integrating African enterprises into global value chains. The outcome of the discussions emphasized the need to operationalize industrial objectives on the ground and to work in partnerships at the country level.

Pillar 2: Strategic support towards the development and management of industrial policy instruments

38. The formulation of effective industrial policies is a proven precondition for successful inclusive and sustainable industrialization strategies. Pillar 2 of the Third Decade programme seeks to support Governments in Africa in that context, with UNIDO operating both at the subregional and the country levels. One example of work by UNIDO at the subregional level is building the analytical capacity of the secretariat of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and of the East African Community, leading to the preparation of baseline studies on the degree of industrialization in their member States, which are in turn essential for the formulation of evidence-based industrial policies. The same type of activities are being delivered at the country level (for example in Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania). Senior advisory services are also required during the process of policy formulation (as is currently the case for UNIDO with the Southern African Customs Union) or for the monitoring and evaluation of specific policies (as in the case of South Africa).

Pillar 3: Technical cooperation

39. This subsection highlights some examples of the work of UNIDO in the area of technical cooperation, aimed at promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa.

1. Programme for Country Partnership

40. In order to operationalize the partnership approach, UNIDO has developed a new type of assistance package for its member States: the Programme for Country Partnership. The Programme is aligned with the national industrialization priorities of the benefiting country and ongoing government and partner interventions relevant for advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It focuses on a selected number of priority industrial sectors or projects. The Programme is also aligned with the priorities of international, multilateral and bilateral finance institutions. Partners in the Programme include United Nations entities, bilateral donors and the business sector. The role of UNIDO within the Programme is to provide advisory services to the government on industry-related issues, lead

programme design, provide multidisciplinary technical assistance and facilitate overall coordination of the Programme.

41. The Programme for Country Partnership has been piloted in two African countries, Ethiopia and Senegal, since 2014. Particular emphasis has been placed on the development of industrial zones and agro-parks. To showcase the Programme to the region and attract investment in priority projects of the Programme for Country Partnership for Senegal, the Fifth Forum on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development was held in Dakar in November 2016. In Ethiopia, integrated agro-industrial parks are also a central part of the Programme. The 1 First International Agro-Industry Investment Forum was held in Addis Ababa in October 2016 to promote investment in the agro-food processing, leather and textile sectors. UNIDO is planning to expand the partnership approach through the Programme for Country Partnership in five additional African countries.

2. Agriculture and food security: Upgrading the fishery sector in South Sudan

42. UNIDO is implementing an $11 million project, funded by the Government of Canada, that is aimed at improving food security, creating jobs and setting the fishery sector of South Sudan on a path of sustainable growth by addressing fishing communities and actors along the fishery value chain. The following has been achieved to date: the procurement of post-harvest reduction fishing equipment for utilization by targeted beneficiaries and communities, including fisher folk; the development of fish markets in two communities, as well as a small-scale business development centre; and the development of a capacity-building programme.

3. Empowerment of young people and women: Supporting the resilience capacity of young people and women after armed conflict in Mali

43. This joint programme of UNIDO and UNDP consolidates the reconciliation and peacebuilding process in northern Mali by allowing young people and women to benefit from spaces for discussion, exchange and training. In addition, it will facilitate the development of technical and operational skills of young people and women. To date, 45 trainers have been trained in financial and administrative management and 12 in entrepreneurship and business plan development. A total of 300 young people have been trained in business plan development and 200 women in management and entrepreneurship.

4. Renewable energy: Global low-carbon low-emission clean energy technology transfer programme in Ethiopia and Kenya

44. The low-carbon low-emission programme is being implemented in cooperation with the Government of Japan and promotes the successful transfer of innovative low-carbon technologies from developed to developing countries. The programme is aimed at fostering the deployment and dissemination of innovative low-carbon low-emission clean energy technologies, products, systems and services. To date, awareness-raising and training exercises have been undertaken to build and strengthen local capacities for the maintenance and manufacturing of ultra-low head micro hydropower technology.

5. Investment promotion: Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Nigeria

45. In March 2016, UNIDO opened an Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Abuja to promote new technologies and mobilize resources. Initiatives for Nigeria include new technologies to enhance clusters for the production of industrial goods, the national quality infrastructure project, which helps to ensure that local products comply with international norms and standards and the staple

crop processing zone programme, which supports the export of processed agro-products. Upcoming initiatives will promote clean technologies for cooking and other domestic uses, and support for investing in sustainable energy.

6. Trade capacity-building: Quality infrastructure development in Namibia

46. In its effort to support good governance, the rule of law and poverty eradication, UNIDO assisted in building trade capacity for exports in Namibia by strengthening the country's quality infrastructure and thereby supporting exporters in maintaining and developing new markets. As a result of the project, which was implemented in collaboration with the Government of Namibia, the capacity of the metrology division of the Namibian Standards Institution to offer related services was improved, including through a review of national quality policies.

7. Small and medium-sized enterprise and private sector development: Mashrou3i project in Tunisia

47. This project was implemented in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development and the HP Foundation. To date, the project has helped to create more than 1,261 jobs and has assisted more than 161 start-up businesses, mainly in the governorates of Kairouan, Kasserine, Kef and Sidi Bouzid, 42 per cent of which involved female entrepreneurs. Seventy small and medium-sized enterprises received technical assistance from UNIDO. Additionally, 1,570 aspiring entrepreneurs took part in HP LIFE (Learning Initiative for Entrepreneurs) face-to-face workshops. The project will be expanded to 14 additional governorates of Tunisia.

Pillar 4: Cooperation with the African Union and African regional economic communities

Cooperation with the African Union Commission

48. Within the long-standing partnership with the African Union, UNIDO led several activities to enhance the development and implementation of the Third Decade and to raise its visibility in the reporting period. As part of the joint cooperation and with the aim of implementing the Third Decade, a new joint African Union Commission-UNIDO action plan was developed to strengthen the ongoing collaboration and include new planned interventions. The joint action plan covers all priority areas of the work of UNIDO and details the technical assistance and expertise that UNIDO will provide to the Commission.

49. Specifically, the programmes and projects pertain to technical cooperation as well as institutional cooperation and cross-cutting issues. These include:

- Promoting industrial development and innovation in Africa, with a focus on agro-industry and industrial clustering, the pharmaceutical sector, energy and green industry sectors
- Improving competitiveness in the manufacturing industry, focusing on trade capacity-building/quality infrastructure for improving competitiveness and market access as well as investment promotion
- Fostering regional policies to enhance Africa's competitiveness revolution, including support to industrial policy development at the national, regional and continental levels and competitiveness enablers: innovation, technology and entrepreneurship
- Supporting continental efforts towards data, including support for collation and dissemination of industrial policy data and statistics

- Institutional cooperation, including on the Third Decade, support to the organization of the African Union Ministerial Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Industry and Minerals, implementation of the plan of action for the accelerated industrial development of Africa, Africa Industrialization Day and the African Union Year of African Structural Transformation through Industrialization and Mineral Development (2019)
- Cross-cutting issues, which include young people and promotion of South-South and North-South industrial cooperation.

50. Furthermore, UNIDO is currently working with the African Union Commission to establish and operationalize an implementation coordination unit for the execution of the action plan for the accelerated industrial development of Africa. The assistance provided through this unit is expected to result in enhanced capacity of the African Union Commission's Department of Trade and Industry to coordinate and effectively support the programmes of the action plan and other continental frameworks that focus on promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa.

Pillar 5: Partnerships and resource mobilization

1. Cooperation with the Group of 20

51. Under the Chinese presidency, the Group of 20 Development Working Group commissioned the preparation of a report for the Hangzhou Summit entitled "Industrialization in Africa and least developed countries: Boosting growth, creating jobs, promoting inclusiveness and sustainability". The report, led by UNIDO in cooperation with various other international organizations, highlighted the benefits of inclusive and sustainable structural transformation and industrialization for diversifying the economy, creating jobs and building equitable societies. It also demonstrated the benefits of leveraging trade in intermediate goods, investment and regional and global value chains for African countries, specifically the least developed countries. The report recommends that the Group of 20 promote inclusive and sustainable structural transformation and industrialization in Africa and least developed countries through various mechanisms, such as knowledge-sharing platforms for peer-to-peer learning; the sharing of best of practices, policies, measures and guiding tools; and multi-stakeholder discussions. On the basis of the UNIDO report, the Group of 20 launched an initiative on supporting industrialization in Africa and least developed countries in Hangzhou.

52. Under the German presidency of the Group of 20 in 2017, the focus on African development, including through industrialization, was maintained. In line with the Third Decade programme framework, UNIDO and other international organizations highlighted the importance of value addition, job creation and social inclusion including in rural development contexts, as shown in the Group of 20 initiative on rural youth employment and the #e-Skills4Girls initiative aimed at a gender inclusive digital economy. Also under the German presidency, the Group of 20 launched the initiative "Group of 20 partnership with Africa", which includes a Group of 20 compact with Africa aimed at prioritizing Group of 20 financial and programmatic support to the region. Within this context, the "Group of Twenty Africa Partnership Conference: Investing in a common future", held in Berlin on 12 and 13 June 2017, at which priority interventions for boosting private investment in Africa were discussed, also touched upon the issue of industrialization in the continent. UNIDO will intensify discussions to enhance collaboration with the Group of Twenty and the countries identified in the compact with Africa, including Ethiopia and Senegal, with a view to channelling investments from the Group of 20

compact with Africa towards activities to advance the implementation of the Third Decade programme.

53. In addition, UNIDO organized a side event for the forty-fifth session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board on the theme "Supporting industrialization in Africa and least developed countries: a priority shared by the Group of 20 and UNIDO", held in Vienna on 27 June 2017. The side event provided an opportunity for UNIDO member States to meet representatives of the Group of Twenty Development Working Group, led by the German presidency, and exchange experiences on the role of intergovernmental bodies in industrialization. High-level representatives of the Group of Twenty reached out to the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, and UNIDO shared experiences and insights into ongoing initiatives and approaches to advance inclusive and sustainable industrialization in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Third Decade.

2. Least developed countries framework

54. UNIDO has a long-standing history in supporting least developed countries on their path to industrialization, thus continuously contributing to the structural transformation of their economies. UNIDO is committed to providing targeted assistance in all areas of its expertise and capabilities. Moreover, UNIDO aims to mitigate inequalities by targeting the marginalized and most vulnerable communities, while further focusing its actions in favour of the least developed countries, as guided by the Istanbul Programme of Action. UNIDO was one of the main contributors to the development of the targets of the Programme of Action, which include building productive capacities and accelerating structural transformation. UNIDO is currently implementing a portfolio of more than 200 projects in least developed countries and during the reporting period, it organized and participated in various events aimed at enhancing industrialization in African least developed countries. UNIDO will also organize the upcoming seventh Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference, on the theme "Building global partnerships: Enhancing inclusiveness and growth in least developed countries", to be held in Vienna on 23 and24 November 2017.

55. The following events provide examples of activities relating to least developed countries in Africa held during the reporting period:

(a) High-level seminar: Accelerating sustainable energy for all in landlocked developing countries through innovative partnerships, October 2016;

(b) The Government of Austria, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, UNIDO and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative jointly organized a high-level seminar on the theme "Accelerating sustainable energy for all in landlocked developing countries through innovative partnerships", held on 24 and 25 October 2016. The meeting was part of the follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. It was held in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. The meeting called for, inter alia, national strategies to achieve global goals on sustainable energy, build resilient sustainable energy infrastructure, promote inclusive industrial development and foster innovation in landlocked developing countries, enhance regional cooperation and finance sustainable energy transition in landlocked developing countries;

(c) UNIDO organizes inclusive and sustainable industrial development forums on a regular basis to extend the impact and outreach of inclusive and sustainable industrial development goals. The Fifth Forum on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, co-organized by UNIDO and the Government of Senegal, was held Dakar, with 15 ECOWAS countries, including 11 least

developed countries, in November 2016. The Forum presented the experience and results of the implementation of the Programme for Country Partnership in the two least developed country pilot countries, Ethiopia and Senegal, in order to sensitize ECOWAS countries to the principles of partnership and enhanced cooperation with the private sector. The Forum also discussed some of the challenges impeding Africa's industrialization and highlighted the importance of regional integration. In that regard, the it presented an action plan for the replication and dissemination of the Programme for Country Partnership model across West Africa. Some 400 participants attended the Forum, including high-level representatives from Governments in Africa, international and regional financial institutions, technical and financial development partners and the private sector;

(d) First International Agro-Industry Investment Forum, Addis Ababa, 5 to 7 October 2016. The First International Agro-Industry Investment Forum was jointly organized by UNIDO and the Government of Ethiopia. The event was organized as part of the Programme for Country Partnership for Ethiopia. With an attendance of more than 1,200 participants, the Forum featured two days of panel discussions, a field visit and several side events, including an exhibition and business matchmaking activities over all three days. Nearly 160 formal business-to-business meetings between Ethiopian companies and foreign investors took place, facilitated by UNIDO. An investment opportunity directory comprising 58 Ethiopian companies was prepared for investment promotion purposes during and after the Forum.

IV. Upcoming events and milestones

56. Going forward, UNIDO will finalize the programme framework through a consultative process and will work on its operationalization. UNIDO will also establish structures and mechanisms to achieve efficient and effective cooperation on the implementation of the framework, joint resource mobilization and continued monitoring and reporting on the Third Decade.

57. Various joint high-level events are planned in the near future. These include the joint high-level event on the theme "Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025): From political commitment to actions on the ground", to be held within the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly on 21 September 2017 in New York and a joint side event to be held at the UNIDO General Conference in Vienna in November 2017 on the theme "Partnering for implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/293 on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025)".